

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination apparatus for an operating section, comprising:  
an operation part provided on a panel of an electronic equipment, and

an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a built-in light  
emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob, wherein

~~the apparatus further comprises:~~

a concave portion opposite an opening in the operation knob of the panel,

~~a light emission source located above a bearing section of an operation knob; and~~

a light guiding piece located in a the concave ~~between the operation knob and the panel~~  
portion to diffusively transmit the light from the light emission source to illuminate the rear  
surface of the operation knob, the light guiding piece comprising a light receiving surface that  
receives the light from the light emission source and an emission surface that irradiates a front of  
the light guiding piece with the light, and

a first reflection surface and a second reflection surface that reflect the light outward from  
the light receiving surface,

wherein the light emission source is provided above a bearing section of the operation  
knob, so as to pierce a hole in the light guiding piece toward the operation knob.

2. (Original) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1,  
wherein at least one of a shaft section of the operation part and a bearing section of the operation  
knob fitted around the shaft section is a transparent material.

3. (Original) An illumination apparatus for an operating section, comprising:  
an operation part provided on a panel of an electronic equipment and  
an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a built-in light emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob,  
wherein each of a shaft section of the operation part and a bearing section of the operation knob is a transparent material, and  
the apparatus further comprises a light emission source provided inside at least one of the shaft section of the operation part and the bearing section of the operation knob, and a light guiding piece is located between the operation knob and the panel to diffusively transmit light from the light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob.

4. (Previously Presented) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of an internal wall surface of the operation knob and a panel surface at the rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1, wherein a light receiving at least one of an internal wall surface of the light guiding piece for receiving the light from the light emission source faces an interior of the operation knob, and an emission a panel surface at a rear surface for emitting of the light diffusively passing through the light guiding piece to front of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface located around the outer peripheral section of the operation knob.

6. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 5 1, wherein ~~a part or the whole of the rear~~ the light receiving surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection for receiving the light from the light emission surface ~~and an outer peripheral section~~ faces an interior of the operation knob, and the ~~a front~~ emission surface ~~of for~~ emitting the light diffusively passing through the light guiding piece is a matted emission surface to the front of the light guiding piece is located around an outer peripheral section of the operation knob.

7. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 4 3, wherein ~~a concave is formed in the panel surface to which the operation part is attached, and~~ light receiving surface of the light guiding piece for receiving the light from the light emission surface faces an interior of the operation knob, and an emission surface for emitting the light diffusively passing through the light guiding piece is placed in the concave to the front of the light guiding piece is located around an outer peripheral section of the operation knob.

8. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 4 6, wherein ~~a through hole is formed in the operation knob so that the transmitted or diffused light is emitted through the through hole~~ at least part of a rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface and an outer peripheral section of a front surface of the light guiding piece is a matted emission surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1 ~~7~~, wherein ~~the operation knob is an operation button~~ a part or the whole of a rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface and an outer peripheral section of a front surface of the light guiding piece is a matted emission surface.

10. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein ~~the light emission source is located between a plane formed by the front surface of the knob and a plane formed by the rim of the knob~~ a concave is formed in the panel surface to which the operation part is attached, and the light guiding piece is placed in the concave.

11. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to claim 1, wherein ~~the front surface of the knob is substantially circular, the side of the knob is substantially cylindrical, the rim is substantially circular, and the light guide is substantially circular~~ a through-hole is formed in the operation knob so that the transmitted or diffused light is emitted through the through-hole.

12. (Currently Amended) An illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 3, comprising: wherein a through-hole is formed in the operation knob so that the transmitted or diffused light is emitted through the through-hole

~~an operation part provided on a panel of electronic equipment, the panel comprising a concave portion and~~

~~an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a light emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob, the knob having a substantially circular front surface and substantially cylindrical body, the body extending from the front surface to a substantially circular rear rim towards a rear surface of the concave portion of the panel,~~

~~a light emission source located above a bearing section of the operation knob, the light emission source located between a plane formed by the front surface of the knob and a plane formed by the rim of the knob,~~

~~a light guiding piece located in the rear surface of the concave between the rim of the operation knob and the panel, a portion of the light guide being within the circumference of the rim, and a portion being outside the circumference of the rim, to diffusively transmit light from the light emission source to illuminate the rear surface of the operation knob outside the circumference of the rim.~~

13. (New) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1, wherein the operation knob is an operation button.

14. (New) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 3, wherein the operation knob is an operation button.

15. (New) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 1, wherein an inner peripheral section of the light guiding piece is thicker than an outer peripheral section, a thicker part of the inner peripheral section is located inside the operation knob,

the outer peripheral section is located around an outer periphery of the operation knob,  
an outer periphery of the outer peripheral section protrudes outward from the outer  
periphery of the operation knob,

a first reflection surface is formed on a rear surface of the outer peripheral section of the  
light guiding piece to reflect the light from the light receiving surface radially outward of the  
light guiding piece,

the second reflection surface is formed on the rear surface of the outer peripheral section  
of the light guiding piece to reflect the light reflected by the first reflection surface toward the  
emission surface.

16. (New) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 3, wherein  
an inner peripheral section of the light guiding piece is thicker than an outer peripheral section,

a thicker part of the inner peripheral section is located inside the operation knob,  
the outer peripheral section is located around an outer periphery of the operation knob,  
an outer periphery of the outer peripheral section protrudes outward from the outer  
periphery of the operation knob,

a first reflection surface is formed on a rear surface of the outer peripheral section of the  
light guiding piece to reflect light from light receiving surface radially outward of the light  
guiding piece,

a second reflection surface is formed on the rear surface of the outer peripheral section of  
the light guiding piece to reflect the light reflected by the first reflection surface toward an  
emission surface.